



science fiction
SPACE ADVENTURES

Nº 9

SCIENCE
FICTION

SPACE

ADVENTURES

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

10¢

STOP THEM! ARE
YOU MAD? WHEN THAT
BOMB GOES OFF IT WILL
DESTROY THE ENTIRE
UNIVERSE!



incredible science fiction stories

Dick
Spawko



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

SCIENCE-FICTION SPACE ADVENTURES

The following outstanding magazines are easily identified on their covers by the words A CHARLTON PUBLICATION.

ATOMIC MOUSE ★ COWBOY WESTERN HEROES ★ CRIME AND JUSTICE ★ FUNNY ANIMALS
 EH! dix this crazy comic ★ HAUNTED ★ HOT RODS AND RACING CARS ★ POT O' GOLD
 LASH LARUE WESTERN ★ ROCKY LANE WESTERN ★ RACKET SQUAD ★ SIX-GUN HEROES
 ROMANTIC STORY ★ SCIENCE-FICTION SPACE ADVENTURES ★ STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES
 SWEETHEARTS ★ TEX RITTER WESTERN ★ TRUE LIFE SECRETS ★ TV TEENS
 ZOO FUNNIES ★ THE THING

Every effort is made to insure that these comic magazines contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment.

AT THE VERY PEAK OF A BRILLIANT SCIENTIFIC CAREER, DR. ERIC BRUNO SECLUDED HIMSELF AND A SINGLE TRUSTED ASSISTANT ON A TINY ISLAND... AND SET TO WORK ON THE PROJECT WHICH WAS TO BE HIS CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT! THE POWER TO CREATE AND CONTROL LIFE WAS WHAT DR. BRUNO HUNGERED FOR --- WHAT HE GOT WAS A NIGHTMARISH ---

SPEED-UP!

A-AT LAST!
 WHAT MANKIND
 HAS ALWAYS
 SEARCHED FOR...!

WE... WE'D BETTER CLEAR
 OUT, DR. BRUNO... BEFORE
 IT'S T-TOO LATE! WHAT
 YOU'VE CREATED IS
 TOO TERRIBLE TO
 IMAGINE!

TOWARD A TINY WAVE-LASHED ISLAND OFF
 THE COAST OF MAINE, A BOAT MOVED
 THROUGH TREACHEROUS SEAS...

BRING IT AROUND NOW... AND
 INTO THE WHARF! AND HURRY...
 DR. BRUNO IS GETTING ANGRY
 BECAUSE OF THE DELAYS!

WHO IN HADES DOES THIS
 DR. BRUNO THINK HE IS,
 ANYWAY? WE RISK OUR NECKS
 BRINGING THIS STUFF OUT TO
 HIS LOUSY ISLAND... AND WE
 GET CUSSSED OUT FOR
 BEING A FEW HOURS
 LATE!

GET IT
 UNLOADED,
 PLEASE...
 BEFORE
 DR. BRUNO
 LOSES HIS
 TEMPER!

CAPPELLO
 SCORING

SPACE ADVENTURES



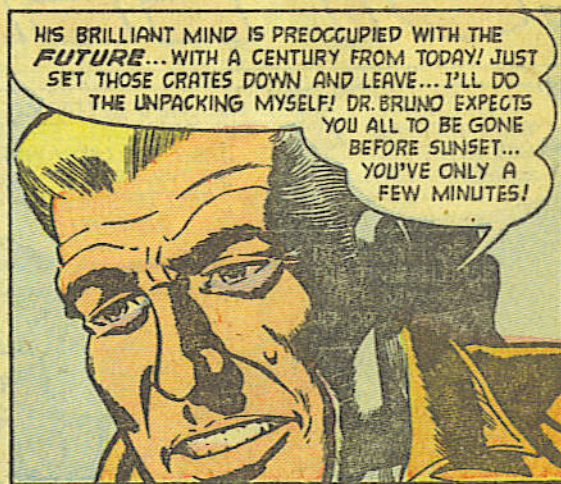
WE OUGHTTA DUMP THIS STUFF RIGHT HERE...
:PUFF!:... AND SCRAM!
WHAT KIND OF TYRANT IS THIS BOSS OF YOURS?

HE'S THE GREATEST SCIENTIST THAT EVER LIVED AND... PLEASE DON'T SHAKE THAT MACHINE! DR. BRUNO WILL BE **FURIOUS**...



I DON'T CARE IF HE BLOWS A GASKET, SEE? IT'S CUSTOMARY TO TREAT OTHER PEOPLE WITH RESPECT NOWADAYS...

DR. BRUNO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT **PEOPLE**, YOU FOOL ... AND IT ISN'T **NOWADAYS** HE'S CONCERNED WITH!



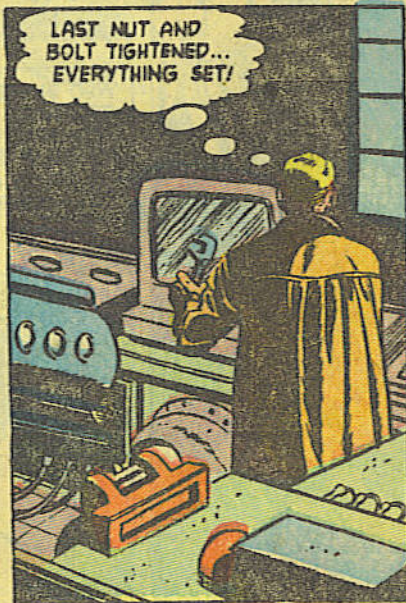
HIS BRILLIANT MIND IS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE **FUTURE**...WITH A CENTURY FROM TODAY! JUST SET THOSE GRATES DOWN AND LEAVE...I'LL DO THE UNPACKING MYSELF! DR. BRUNO EXPECTS YOU ALL TO BE GONE BEFORE SUNSET... YOU'VE ONLY A FEW MINUTES!



T-THAT GUY MOVES LIKE HE'S HYPNOTIZED OR SOMETHING! THIS BRUNO MUGG MUST BE A REAL BRAIN IF HE CAN PUT A GUY IN **THAT** KIND OF TRANCE...

BRRR! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS...
L-LET'S GET BACK TO THE BOAT AND SHOVE OFF! I DON'T WANT NO PART OF **THIS** ISLAND!

QUAKING WITH FEAR, THE WORKMEN LEFT THE ISLAND HURRIEDLY! AND NORMAN DUROCHER, HIS FACE TIGHT WITH ANXIETY, PLUNGED INTO THE WORK AT HAND! THE HOURS SPED BY...



LAST NUT AND BOLT TIGHTENED...
EVERYTHING SET!



N-NOW TO GET A FEW HOURS' SLEEP BEFORE I COLLAPSE! I'LL TELL DR. BRUNO IT TOOK LONGER THAN I THOUGHT TO ASSEMBLE THE MACHINES...

SPACE ADVENTURES



ALL READY, I SEE...
GOOD! WE'LL
START WORK
IMMEDIATELY!

W-WHO...?
DR. B-BRUNO...
I-I DIDN'T
EXPECT YOU
HERE IN THE
LAB JUST YET!

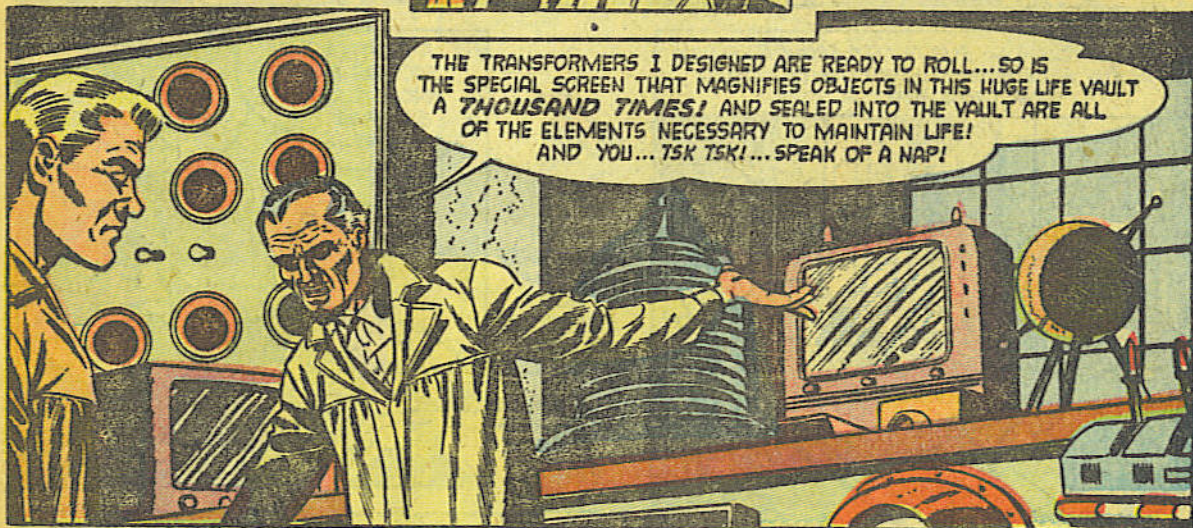


I...I'VE BEEN WORKING
HARD, SETTING THE
PLACE UP, DR. BRUNO...
T-THOUGHT I'D
CATCH A LITTLE
SHUT-EYE
BEFORE...

NONSENSE!
THE DEVICES
ARE HERE...
AND SO ARE **WE!**
NO REASON TO
DELAY ANOTHER
MOMENT!



IF WE ARE TO CREATE LIFE LIKE
OUR OWN IN MINIATURE... MAKE IT
REPRODUCE SO THAT WE CAN
SCRUTINIZE IT GENERATION AFTER
GENERATION... THERE ISN'T A SECOND
TO LOSE! IT MAY TAKE MONTHS TO
ACHIEVE MY AIM... **MAYBE YEARS**
...WE MUST START **AT ONCE!**



THE TRANSFORMERS I DESIGNED ARE READY TO ROLL... SO IS
THE SPECIAL SCREEN THAT MAGNIFIES OBJECTS IN THIS HUGE LIFE VAULT
A **THOUSAND TIMES!** AND SEALED INTO THE VAULT ARE ALL
OF THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN LIFE!
AND YOU... **TSK TSK!**... SPEAK OF A NAP!



WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME IN CONVERSATION.
NORMAN... HAND ME THE BOTTLE WITH THE
CULTURE I PERFECTED! THERE'S
WORK TO BE DONE!



IF I'VE BEEN RIGHT, THIS SINGLE DROP
OF FLUID CONTAINS THE FIRST CREATURE
IN A TINY NEW CIVILIZATION! THERE ...
IT'S ON THE GLASS SLIDE! NOW TO
GET ON WITH **OPERATION
SPEED-UP!**

SPACE ADVENTURES



ALL SET HERE, NORMAN...
ARE YOU READY WITH THE
WALL SWITCHES?

R-READY,
DR. BRUNO...



GIVE IT
HALF-POWER,
NORMAN!

HALF-POWER,
DR. BRUNO!

THE CRACKLE OF ELECTRICITY SOUNDED EERILY
IN THE HUGE ROOM...WEIRD LIGHTS BATHED
THE LABORATORY...



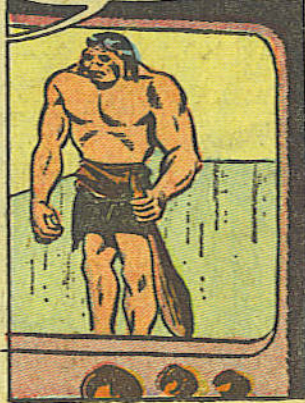
FOR
FIVE
MINUTES
THE ROOM
WAS A
NIGHTMARE
OF SOUND
AND
GROTESQUE
FLASHES!
THEN...



A-ANOTHER FEW
SECONDS AND THE
WHOLE ISLAND'LL
GO UP IN
SMOKE...

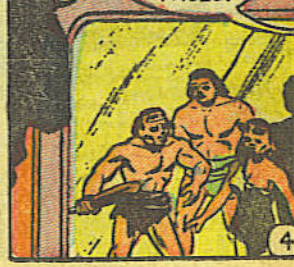
STOP YOUR
PRATTING, YOU
IDIOT! ON THE
MAGNI-SCREEN...
LOOK!

I-I'VE DONE IT...CREATED A
LIVING CREATURE OUT OF
MINERALS AND HYDROGEN!
THE THING IS SMALLER THAN
THE HEAD OF A PIN, BUT THE
SCREEN ENLARGES IT A
THOUSAND TIMES SO THAT
IT'S VISIBLE TO US!

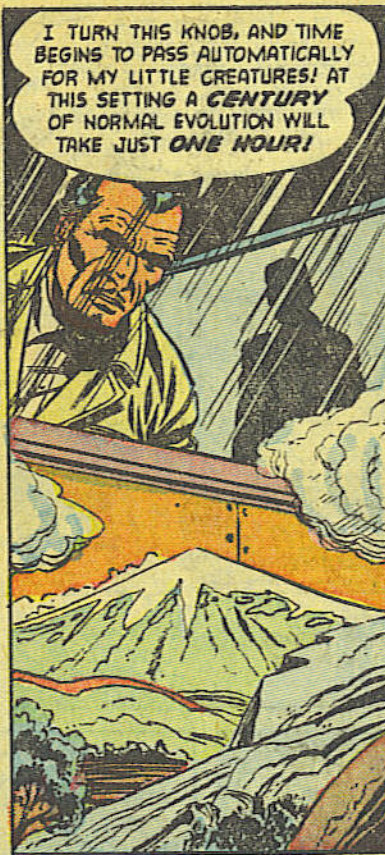


SEE... A WHOLE GENERA-
TION OF CREATURES
SIMILAR TO THE
NEANDERTHAL MAN!
QUICK, NORMAN...INTO
THE LIFE VAULT WITH
THE WHOLE BATCH!

J-JUST AS YOU
SAY, DR. BRUNO!
I-I HOPE THIS
EXPERIMENT
DOESN'T BLOW
UP IN OUR
FACES!



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

DON'T BE AN IDIOT, NORMAN... IT'S JUST THAT YOU HAVE AS LITTLE INTEREST IN THE PAST AS I HAVE! IT'S THE **FUTURE** THAT FASCINATES US... WHAT MEN WILL BE LIKE A CENTURY FROM NOW... HOW THEY'LL LOOK, WHAT SCIENTIFIC WONDERS THEY WILL POSSESS! WELL... WE CAN SOON FIX **THAT**...



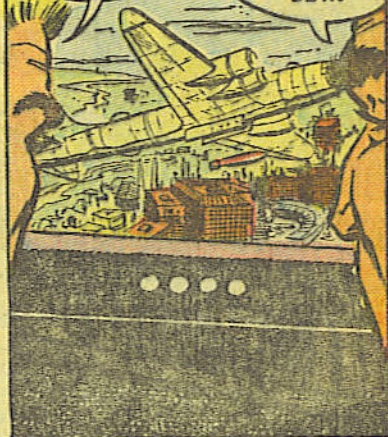
...BY SPEEDING UP THIS MINIATURE CIVILIZATION EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE! A TWIST OF THE KNOB... AND THE TWENTIETH CENTURY TAKES JUST A HALF-HOUR!



THE MINUTES SPED BY... AND WITH EACH TICK OF THE CLOCK THE YEARS PASSED FOR THE TINY CREATURES IN THE LIFE VAULT...

T-THAT AIRCRAFT, DR. BRUNO... IT'S SIMILAR TO WHAT WE USED ONLY A SHORT WHILE AGO...

MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PLANE... THOSE **BOMBS**... THEY MUST BE...



...T-THE **ATOM** BOMB! YOUR CREATURES HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET OF NUCLEAR FISSION...

OLD HAT... IT **BORES** ME! WHAT I'M HERE FOR IS TO SEE THE **FUTURE**!



B-BUT THE NEXT STEP IS... IS...

THE **COBALT-HYDROGEN BOMB**, DEAR BOY! BUT DON'T FEAR... THE LIFE VAULT IS CONSTRUCTED TO WITHSTAND THIS MINIATURE VERSION OF THE BLAST!



BESIDES, I ALREADY KNOW THE SECRET OF THE H-BOMB... AND SO I TWIRL THE TIME-ELAPSE KNOB STILL FASTER, AND I WHIRL MY CIVILIZATION **PAST** THE END OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY... SKIP ALL THE YEARS 'TIL 2153!



SPACE ADVENTURES



AH...AT LAST! *THIS* IS WHAT I'VE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO, NORMAN... A PEEK AT THIS ULTIMATE SCIENTIFIC SECRET MAN HAS YET TO DISCOVER! THESE CREATURES ARE ALREADY 100 YEARS BEYOND US... AND THEY'RE WORKING ON THE ARGON BOMB!



T-THE ARGON BOMB? IF IT EVER GOES OFF, IT'LL RELEASE AS MUCH ENERGY AS THE *SUN* GENERATES... TOTALLY DESTROY THE EARTH! GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU MADMAN... BEFORE YOU DESTROY US ALL!



I-I'VE GOT TO SLOW DOWN THE TIME-ELAPSE SO THAT A YEAR IN THE LIFE VAULT WILL TAKE A CENTURY OF *OUR* TIME...

M-MY LIFE WORK... YOU WON'T STAND IN MY WAY!



DIE, WEAKLING! NO SENTIMENTAL IDIOT CAN KEEP ME FROM DISCOVERING THE SECRET OF THE ARGON BOMB!

G-GET AWAY... ARGHHH!

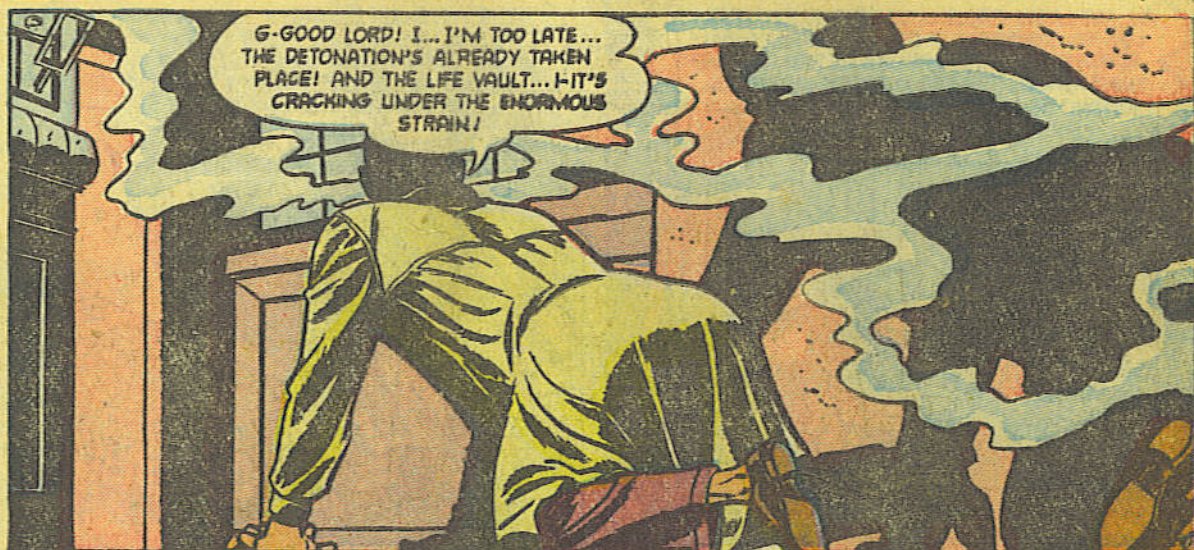


G-GOT TO WORK FAST...GET THE FORMULA BEFORE THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO DETONATE THE FIRST ARGON BOMB! HMM... SO *THAT'S* HOW THEY PLAN TO TRIGGER THE EXPLOSIVE...!



T-THE WHOLE SECRET...IT...IT'S *MINE*! NOW TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THE LIFE VAULT... DESTROY ALL EXISTENCE BEFORE THE EXPLOSION TAKES PL...OOOOFF!

SPACE ADVENTURES



A FISTFUL OF DOOM

NED BROVO
WAS INTENT AND STUDIOUS... A
MAN WHO BURNED WITH DESIRE
FOR RECOGNITION AS A LEADING
ASTRO-BOTANIST. FOR HIM, THE TRIP
WAS UNDERTAKEN TO FAN THE FLAME
OF AMBITION!



CARL MONAT
WAS RICH AND CLEVER.
THE ACQUISITION OF THE
LEGENDARY SPIDER
FLOWER WOULD
ENSURE THE ONE
THING HIS BUSINESS
SUCCESS HAD NEVER
BROUGHT HIM... FAME!



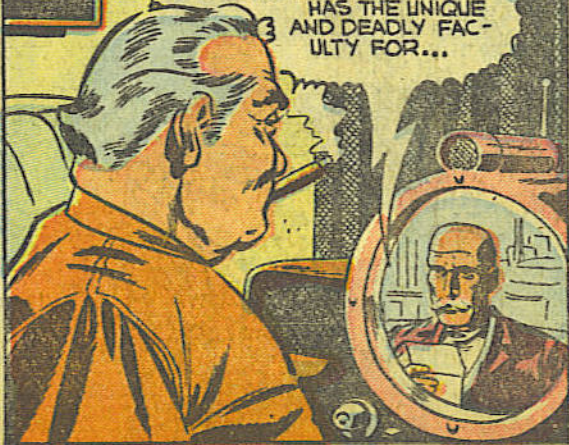
BURT LOOB
WAS A VETERAN SPACE PILOT WHO HAD
VISITED THE MOST DISTANT REACHES OF
THE UNIVERSE, AND HAD JUST ONE AIM
IN LIFE. THE JOURNEY, FOR HIM, PROMISED
WEALTH!

DICK
SICARD

THE COSMIC MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY HAS
AUTHORIZED ME TO
ANNOUNCE A PRIZE OF
\$1,000,000 FOR THE
FIRST PERSON TO
BRING BACK TO
EARTH...



...A LIVING SPECIMEN
OF THE NOW ALMOST
TOTALLY EXTINCT SPIDER
FLOWER OF VENUS? TAKE
EXTREME CAUTION IN
HANDLING THIS PLANT...
THE "SPIDER FLOWER"
HAS THE UNIQUE
AND DEADLY FAC-
ULTY FOR...

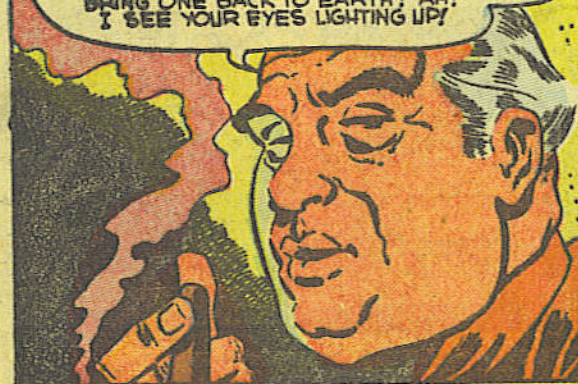


SPACE ADVENTURES

HAVE THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT SEND BROVO IN TO SEE ME IMMEDIATELY. AND CONTACT THE SPACEPORT... I WANT LOOG TO HURRY RIGHT OVER. ONCE THEY'RE HERE, I'M NOT TO BE DISTURBED. FOR ANY REASON!



WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE GIANT CALLED MONAT ENTERPRISES. THE THREE OF US, BECAUSE OF OUR SPECIALTIES, ARE GOING TO VENUS TO SEARCH FOR THE SPIDER FLOWER! A COOL MILLION IS BEING OFFERED FOR THE FIRST MAN TO BRING ONE BACK TO EARTH! AH! I SEE YOUR EYES LIGHTING UP!



A PERTINENT QUESTION... BROVO, AN ASTRO-BOTANIST IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR OUR TRIP. AND SO ARE YOU, LOOG, BECAUSE YOU WILL PILOT US TO VENUS. I WILL SUPPLY THE SHIP FOR THE FLIGHT...



HALF HOUR LATER...

NO NEED TO DWELL ON FORMALITY... A LOT OF IMPORTANT BUSINESS FOR THE THREE OF US TO DISCUSS. THIS IS BROVO... FROM RESEARCH... LOOG, TRANSPORTATION. FINE, YOU'VE MET... NOW SIT DOWN...



FOR THE STATURE THE PLANT WOULD BRING ME IN THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD, I'D GO TO THE END OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

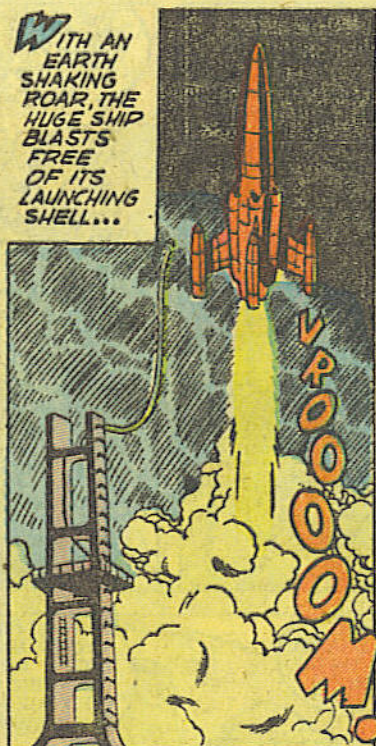
I KNOW WHY BROVO AND I WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SUCH A FLIGHT. BUT WHAT, EXACTLY, IS THE SKILL WHICH YOU SUPPLY?



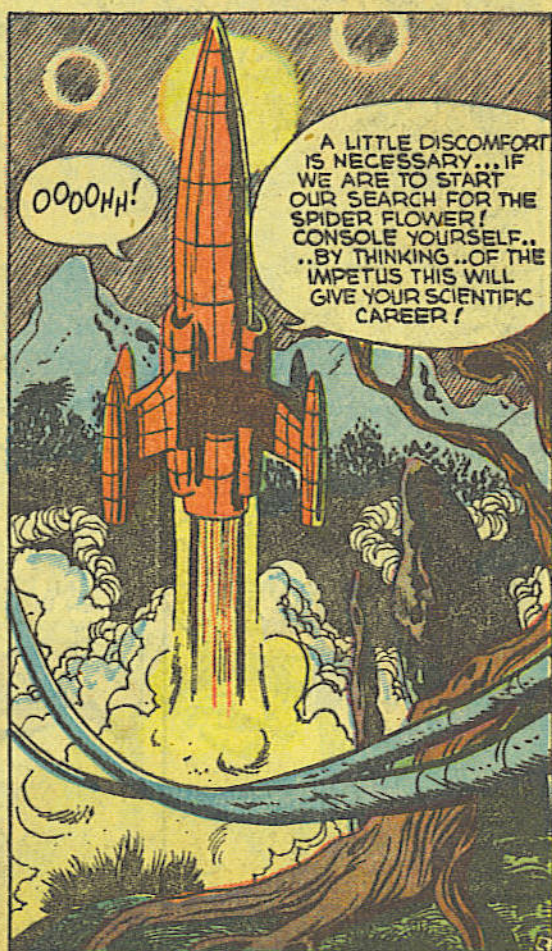
...AND, MORE IMPORTANT, IT HAPPENS THAT THE BREEDING GROUND OF THE "SPIDER FLOWER" IS LOCATED ON THE GREAT VENUSIAN MARSH... A PIECE OF PROPERTY WHICH I PURCHASED YEARS AGO, IN A MOMENT OF FOOLISHNESS! NOW... A TOAST TO OUR SUCCESS!



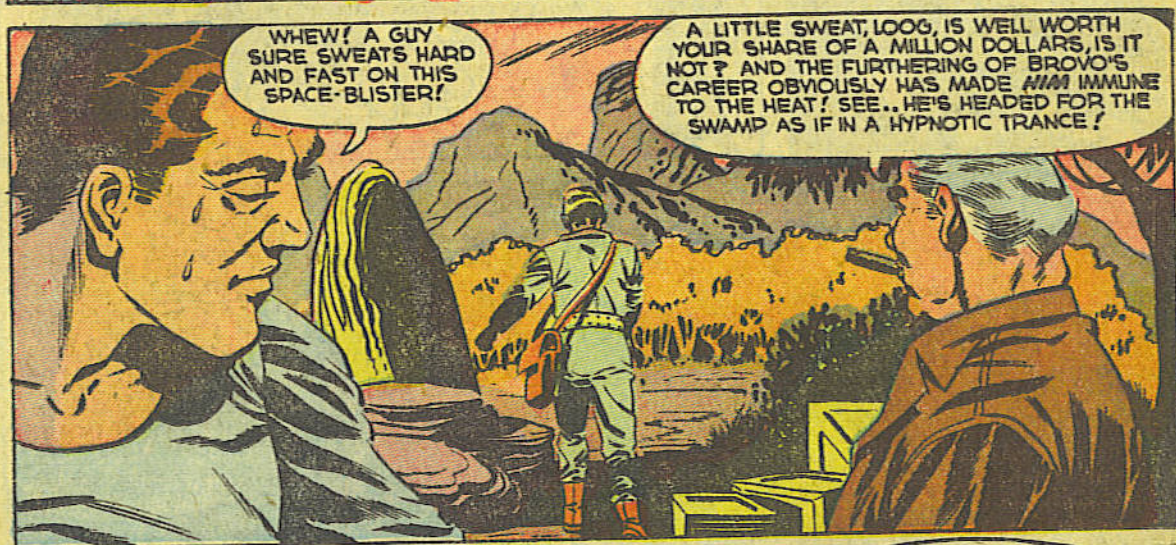
SPACE ADVENTURES



AT INCREDIBLE SPEED, THE CRAFT ROARS THROUGH THE DARK SKY...



SPACE ADVENTURES



THE DAYS PASSED SLOWLY... DAYS OF DISCOMFORT AND PAIN FOR LOOG...



SPACE ADVENTURES



I'M GOING TO SHARE THIS FIND WITH **NO ONE!** I'LL HIDE IT IN MY MEAL BOX... THEN REPORT THAT MY SEARCH WAS UNSUCCESSFUL!



WHEN WE GET BACK TO EARTH I'LL HURRY TO THE COSMIC MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY WITH MY MAGNIFICENT DISCOVERY! MY REPUTATION AS AN ASTRO-BOTANIST IS ASSURED! NOW... **WHO'S THERE?**



M-MR. MONAT! I WAS UNABLE TO FIND...

DON'T BE ABSURD, BROVO... I SAW YOU! UNGENTLEMANLY OF ME, I AGREE, BUT I'VE BEEN SPYING ON YOU! I... ER... NEVER PLANNED ON SHARING THE GLORY WITH YOU!



Y-YOU WOULDN'T DARE... **ARGHH!**

THERE IS **NOTHING**, MY DEAR BROVO, THAT CAN DETER CARL MONAT FROM ENJOYING THE FAME THE SPIDER FLOWER WILL BRING! I CERTAINLY DON'T INTEND TO SHARE IT WITH **YOU!**



A PITY, BROVO... BUT YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE. AH! THERE'S THE LITTLE BEAUTY... SAFE AND SOUND. MUST REMEMBER NOT TO **TOUCH IT!**



DID YOU FIND BROVO?

BAD NEWS, MY FRIEND! I FOUND WHAT WAS **LEFT** OF HIM... AND NO INDICATION THAT HE HAD FOUND WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR! ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THIS PITIFUL MEAL-BOX!

SPACE ADVENTURES

THAT DOES IT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, MONAT! THE WHOLE THING WAS A PIPE DREAM ANYWAY!

A-AND GIVE UP THE SEARCH? WELL... IF YOU WANT TO...



DAYS DRONED BY AND, AT LAST, THE TEMPTATION TO PEER AT HIS PRIZE PROVED TOO GREAT FOR CARL MONAT...

THAT MEAL BOX OF BROVO'S... HE'S BEEN CODDLING IT A LOT! SAY... I BET THE OLD BUZZARD'S GOT SOMETHING IN THERE THAT WOULD INTEREST ME! OF COURSE... HE KILLED BROVO, AND THINKS HE CAN PUT ONE OVER ON ME!



ONE GLANCE AT THE MEAL-BOX WAS ENOUGH FOR BURT LOOG! WITH A TRIUMPHANT LEER, HE DONNED A COMPRESSION HELMET, OPENED AN ESCAPE HATCH...

OUT YOU GO, FATSO! WHEN I TELL THE AUTHORITIES BACK ON EARTH THAT I LOST MY TWO BUDDIES THROUGH MISFORTUNES, WHO CAN PROVE OTHERWISE? THE MILLION DOLLARS... MINE!



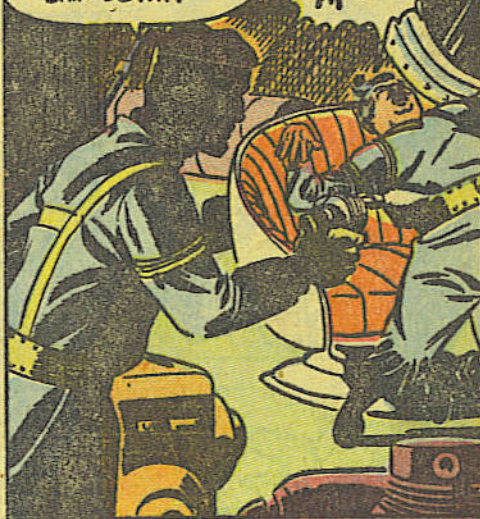
IT TOOK ONLY A FEW MINUTES TO PREPARE THE SHIP FOR TAKE-OFF. THEN THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION OF FLAME AND SMOKE...

I NEED LOOG'S SKILL TO BRING ME BACK TO EARTH! BUT AT THE RIGHT MOMENT... AFTER WE LAND... I WILL MAKE CERTAIN THAT I RECEIVE THE PLAUDITS FOR THIS VENTURE!



DON'T BOTHER TURNING, MONAT... SAY YOUR GOODBYES FAST! I THOUGHT YOU'D FAST-TALK ME OUT OF MY SHARE, DIDN'T YOU? PROBABLY EVEN PLANNED TO KILL ME AFTER I SET THE SHIP DOWN!

N-NO... AIEEE!



HA! HA!

THERE GOES THE OLD CHSELER'S UGLY BODY... BLOWN TO BITS BY THE PRESSURE OF SPACE! NOW TO SPEED UP THE ROCKETS... EARTH... HERE I COME!



SPACE ADVENTURES

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, A SHIP LANDS FROM OUTER SPACE. A HURRIED TELESCAN MESSAGE IS MADE, AND BURT LOOG IS RUSHED TO A WAITING ASSEMBLY OF SCIENTISTS...



RIGHT THIS WAY, MR. LOOG! THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONVENED IMMEDIATELY TO SEE YOUR DISCOVERY!

COSMOL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

... AND THAT, GENTLEMEN, IS HOW POOR MR. MONAT MET HIS DEATH. A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT, I THINK THAT COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES SHOULD BE SET UP FOR BOTH MY COMPANIONS! AND NOW... HERE'S THE MILLION-DOLLAR FLOWER!

ONE LOOK WILL TELL YOU IT'S GENUINE! I'D LIKE THAT MONEY AS QUICKLY AS I CAN GET IT! COME, PRETTY BABY... SMILE AT THE AUDIENCE!

N-NO... MR. LOOG! NOT THAT WAY...

W-WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU GUYS? THIS... THIS IS A VENUSIAN SPIDER-FLOWER, ISN'T IT?

G-GOOD LORD! W-WE WARNED PEOPLE NOT TO TOUCH THE FLOWER... OUR TELECAST STRESSED CAUTION!



I... I CAN'T GET RID OF THE CURSED THING! HELP ME... IT'S G-GROWING RIGHT OUT OF MY BODY! PLEASE!

YIIIIIIII!



HE... HE'S DEAD! HE PAID NO ATTENTION TO OUR WARNINGS THAT THE SPIDER FLOWER THRIVES ON THE MOISTURE FOUND IN THE HUMAN BODY!

INSTEAD OF A MILLION DOLLARS... ALL HE GOT OUT OF THAT BOX WAS A FISTFUL OF DOOM!

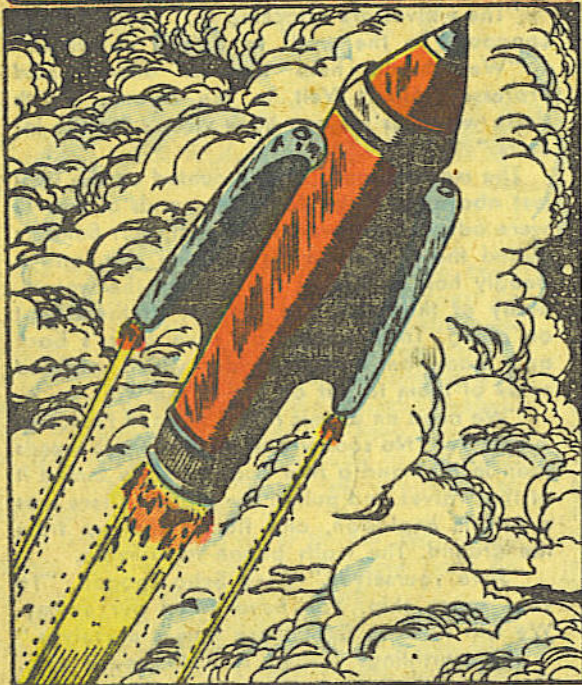


THE END

SPACE ADVENTURES

OUT IN SPACE !!!

ROCKET AND GUIDED MISSILE EXPERTS SAY THAT THE SPEED NECESSARY FOR A SPACESHIP TO ESCAPE FROM THE EARTH'S ENORMOUS SUCTION IS AN INCREDIBLE 25,000 MILES PER HOUR!

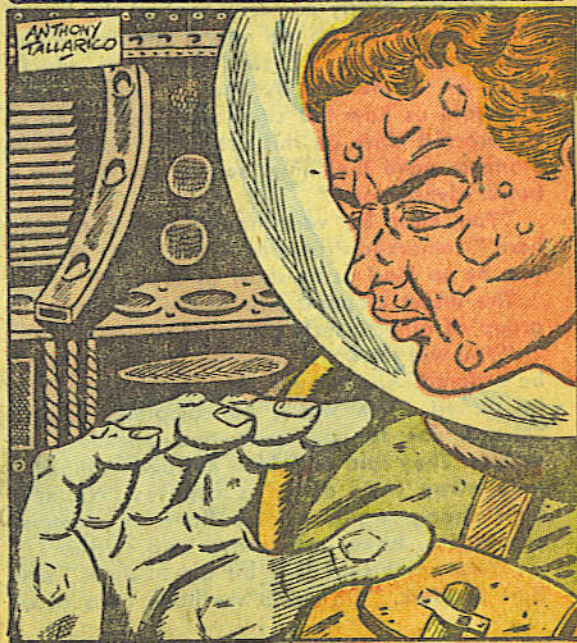


FIFTY MILES ABOVE OUR PLANET, AIR RESISTANCE WILL HEAT THE WINGS AND FUSELAGE OF A ROCKET TO A SEARING, WHITE-HOT 1,500 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT!



IN BLASTING FREE OF THE EARTH, PREPARATORY TO FLIGHT INTO THE OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM, THE PILOT AND CREW OF A SPACESHIP WOULD HAVE TO WITHSTAND "9 GS".... 9 TIMES NORMAL GRAVITY! A CREW MEMBER WHO NORMALLY WEIGHED 200 POUNDS WOULD... DURING THIS PERIOD... TIP THE SCALES AT CLOSE TO A TON !!

ABOUT 63,000 FEET ALTITUDE, A SPACE PILOT NOT WEARING A PRESSURIZED SUIT WILL FIND THAT HIS BLOOD BEGINS TO BOIL, FORCING HIS SKIN TO BUBBLE LIKE COOKIES BAKING IN AN OVEN! AND EVEN WITH PRESSURIZING, THE SPACEMAN'S HANDS WILL BECOME BLUIGH AND GREATLY BLOATED!!



SPACE ADVENTURES

IN THE YEAR 1995 GLOBAL WAR THREATENED TO ANNIHILATE THE EARTH, AND HYSTERIA CONVULSED THE HUMAN RACE. VOWING TO ESCAPE FROM THE DOOMED PLANET, A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS HOPED TO FIND... SOMEWHERE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM... A RETURN TO THE PEACE AND RELAXATION OF...

The GOOD OLD DAYS



SPACE ADVENTURES

A FLEET OF ENEMY A-BOMB AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE SAHARA. MOBILIZATION HAS BEEN SPEEDED UP...

HURRY, LORI!
W-W-E'VE GOT TO GET TO THE LABORATORY, AWAY FROM ALL THIS FEAR AND MADNESS!



HALT! NO ONE'S GOT PERMISSION TO USE THE MAIN STREETS! MARTIAL LAW'S BEEN PROCLAIMED HERE IN THE CITY!

B-BUT I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY POST, SERGEANT!



YOUR POST DON'T MEAN NOTHING NOW, CITIZEN! ALL MEN ARE BEING ROUNDED UP FOR URGENT MILITARY SERVICE! AND THERE AIN'T ANY EXCEPTIONS! COME WITH ME TO THE RECRUITING CENTER...



LOOK HERE...I'M A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL AND IMMUNE TO THIS SORT OF IDIOTCY! SEE... HERE'S MY EXEMPTION CARD!

A WISE-GUY, EH?



YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THE REST OF US! YOU'LL JOIN ALL THE OTHER MEN AT THE RECRUITING CENTER, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!

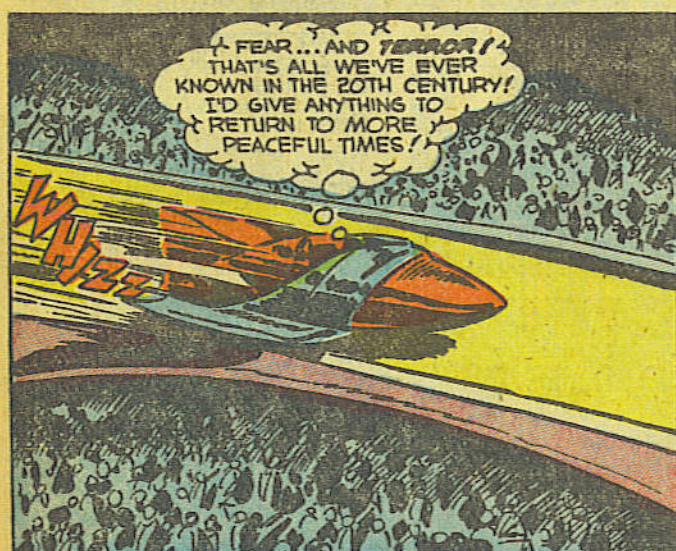
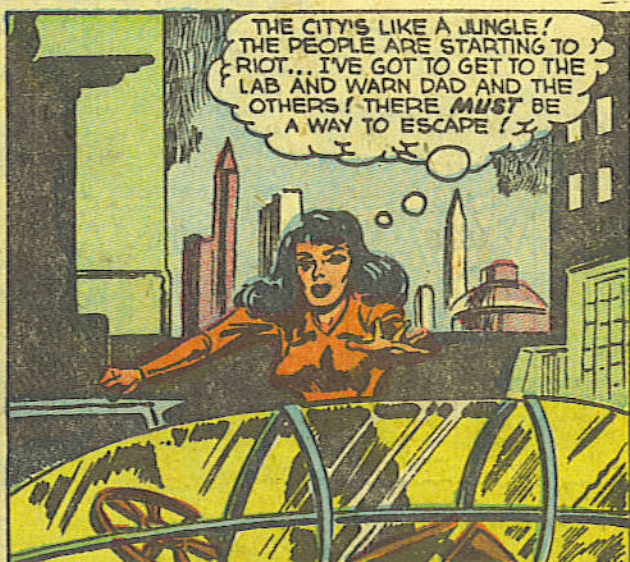


I GOT HOLD OF A SLACKER, CAP'N! THINKS HE'S TOO GOOD TO HELP DEFEND THE COUNTRY AGAINST ENEMIES...

T-THE STUPID BLIND PIGS! THE THREAT OF ATOMIC WAR HAS MADE WILD ANIMALS OF EVERYONE HERE IN THE CITY! I'VE GOT TO G-GET AWAY BEFORE I GO MAD MYSELF!



SPACE ADVENTURES



HURTLING THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE, LORI SOON ARRIVED AT THE LAB AND...



SPACE ADVENTURES

AS AN ASTRONOMER I KNOW THAT ALL THE PLANETS OF OUR OWN SOLAR SYSTEM HAVE PROVED UNINHABITABLE, DESPITE YEARS OF EXPLORATION. BUT THERE IS A PLANET... MANTOR... WHICH APPEARS TO EXACTLY DUPLICATE CONDITIONS ON OUR GLOBE! IF WE COULD GET THERE, PERHAPS...

WE'VE GOT TO GAMBLE, THEN... THERE'S NO ALTERNATIVE! WE'LL STRIP DOWN OUR EXPERIMENTAL SPACE-SHIP AND BLAST FREE OF THE EARTH, BEFORE IT'S TOTALLY DEVASTATED! ON MANTOR... IF WE MAKE IT... PERHAPS WE CAN START LIFE ANEW! IT'S WORTH TRYING!

WORKING WITH FEVERISH SPEED, THE SPACESHIP WAS READIED FOR IMMEDIATE FLIGHT INTO THE UNKNOWN...

THE SHIP WAS LOCKED UP AT LAST! A DEAFENING ROAR SHATTERED THE STILLNESS OF THE SILENCE... BLUE-GREEN FLAME LEAPED FROM THE TAIL JETS AND...

ROARING INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE AT BLINDING SPEED THE REFUGEES' CRAFT ATTAINED A COMMANDING VIEW...

HURRY! IF A CHAIN REACTION STARTS WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

WE ARE HURRYING, SIR! BUT IT'S A RISKY FLIGHT.. EVERYTHING'S GOTTA BE IN PERFECT ORDER!

LOOK! EXPLOSIONS... LOOKS LIKE A VITAL CENTER'S BEEN HIT!

BY ATOMIC WARHEADS, BY THE APPEARANCE OF THINGS!

OUR H-HOME PLANET'S BEEN BLOWN RIGHT OUT OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM! WE HAVE NO CHOICE NOW, WE MUST REACH MANTOR! IT'S THE ONLY SPOT WHERE HUMAN LIFE CAN EXIST! DOUBLE-SPEED ON THE ROCKETS..HEAD FOR THE CONSTELLATION TREXES!

THE EARTH... IT.. IT'S BLOWING UP!

BLASTED INTO A TRILLION PIECES, RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES! THEY MUST'VE SCORED A DIRECT HIT ON A CHAIN REACTION PLANT!

THEN THE TREMBLING REFUGEES SAW AN INCREDIBLE THING...

SPACE ADVENTURES

AT UNBELIEVABLE SPEED THE SPACE SHIP HURTTLED THROUGH THE DARK VOID. WEEK AFTER WEEK STRANGE CONFERENCES WENT ON...



..AND THESE SHELTERS SHOULD PROVIDE FOR US IN ANY CLIMATE! THEY'RE SIMPLE, BUT ADEQUATE! FOR A WHILE WE'LL BE ROUGHING IT... BUT ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN BEING BACK ON WHAT'S LEFT OF EARTH!

THAT *DOES* IT, GENTLEMEN... YOU'VE ALL BEEN BRIEFED ON WHAT TO DO WHEN WE LAND ON MANTOR. DR. KRON ESTIMATES THAT OUR NEW HOME CLOSELY PARALLELS THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARTH... POSSIBLY A FEW CENTURIES BEHIND IN EVOLUTION. WE MAY EVEN DISCOVER CREATURES LIKE OURSELVES THERE!



THIS IS WHAT WE'VE ALL PRAYED FOR... A CHANCE FOR THE HUMAN RACE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN! NO INSANE WEAPONS OR MAD SCHEMES OF DESTRUCTION... THIS WILL BE LIKE A BLESSED RETURN TO THE SIMPLICITY OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS!



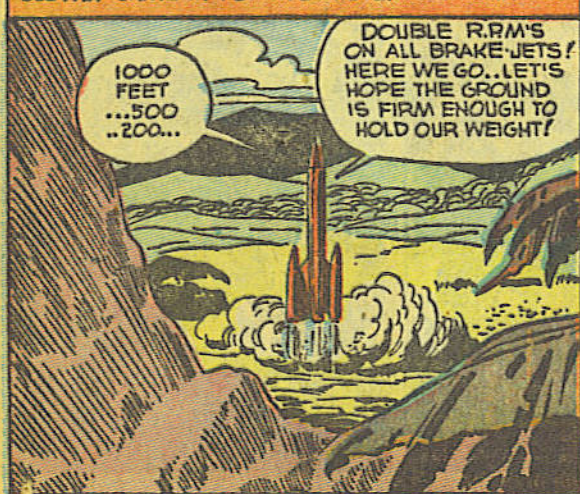
MONTHS LATER, AFTER WHAT SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY OF ROARING THROUGH SPACE...

T-THERE SHE IS! ACCORDING TO MY ASTRO-NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS THAT'S...

MANTOR! PUT LANDING CODE NUMBER TWO INTO ACTION... EVERYONE FORWARD! I'M ABOUT TO REVERSE JETS... WE'LL CIRCLE ONCE THEN GO IN!



A VISIBLE TREMBLING SHIVERED DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE SPACE VOYAGER AS IT SLOWLY CAME IN FOR ITS HISTORIC LANDING...



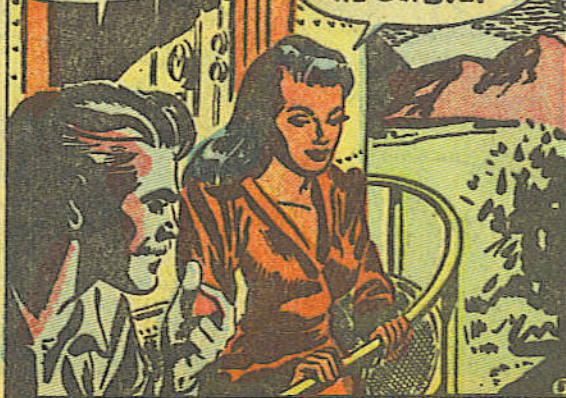
1000 FEET
...500
...200...

DOUBLE R.R.M'S ON ALL BRAKE-JETS! HERE WE GO... LET'S HOPE THE GROUND IS FIRM ENOUGH TO HOLD OUR WEIGHT!

A MOMENT LATER...

W-WE MADE IT! KRON WAS RIGHT... THIS *DOES* LOOK LIKE THE EARTH!

THE AIR... IT'S CLEAR ENOUGH FOR US TO BREATHE WITHOUT OXYGEN TANKS! THIS IS OUR SALVATION... HERE WE CAN LIVE!



SPACE ADVENTURES

WHILE THE WORK CREWS STARTED TO BUILD SHELTERS, STARTLED DR. KRON MADE A DISCOVERY...

I...I'M AFRAID I WAS WAY OFF IN MY CALCULATIONS! MANTOR IS NOT CENTURIES BEHIND THE EVOLUTION OF THE EARTH... THIS SOIL IS THE KIND THAT EXISTED ON OUR OWN GLOBE MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO!



WE'RE BACK IN WHAT CORRESPONDS TO THE MESOZOIC ERA ON EARTH! WHEN LORI SAID **GOOD OLD DAYS** I DON'T THINK SHE...

L-LOOK! THOSE HIDEOUS MONSTERS!



A-PTERODACTYLE! MANTORIAN REPLICAS OF EARTH'S SAVAGE PREHISTORIC FLYING BAT!

DIVING AT US! W-WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!



DR. KRON... HE'S BEING BUTCHERED!

HURRY, LORI... BACK TO THE SPACESHIP! NOTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP POOR KRON!

THE SHELTER DETAIL... IT'S BEEN ANNIHILATED!

B-BUT WHAT AWFUL THING COULD'VE DONE THAT?



G-GOOD LORD! A **TYRANNOSAUR...** THE DEADLIEST KILLER EVER KNOWN TO PROWL THE EARTH!

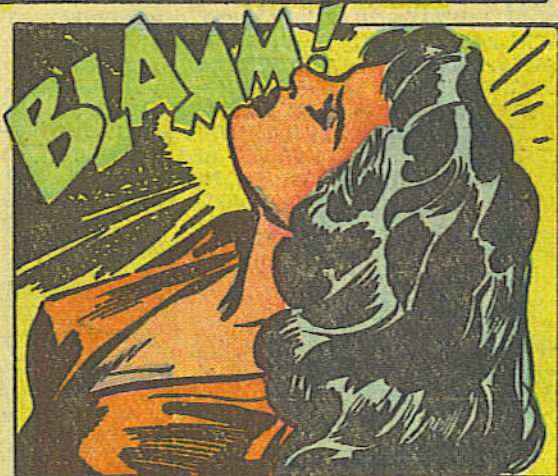
IT'S COMING FOR US, DAD!



SPACE ADVENTURES



SICK WITH FEAR, THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE ILL-FATED EXPEDITION RACED TOWARD SAFETY!



THIS ENDED THE ILL-FATED TRIP TO MANTOR... THE FLIGHT FROM A CIVILIZATION INTENT ON SELF-DESTRUCTION, TO THE SIMPLICITY OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

THE END

SPACE ADVENTURES

H HE HAD A "WAY" WITH ANIMALS---THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAID OF HERMAN LINDSAY! THERE WAS THE CAT HE TAUGHT TO PLAY THE BANJO... THE GOLDFISH WHO COULD WALK... THE FABULOUS CANARY WHO SMOKED CIGARS! BUT ALL OF HERMAN'S OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE SURPASSED BY THE SPECIAL TRAINING THAT LED TO...

THE DAY FIDO SANG



A LIFETIME OF SECRET TESTS LED TO THE MOMENT WHEN HERMAN LINDSAY JABBED HIS HYPODERMIC NEEDLE INTO THE POOCH HE HAD JUST BOUGHT...



SPACE ADVENTURES

SIT UP AND PAY ATTENTION YOU BAG OF FLEAS! YOUR NAME IS FIDO... FIDO! AND THIS THING I'M HOLDING IS A BONE! NOW, REPEAT

AFTER ME...
FIDO...
BONE!

F-F-FIDO...
B-B-BONE!

OVERJOYED BY THE SUCCESS OF HIS FANTASTIC EXPERIMENT, HERMAN PLUNGED HEADLONG INTO THE TASK OF EXPANDING THE VOCABULARY OF HIS TALKING DOG...

YOU'RE DOING FINE, FIDO! ONCE MORE OVER THESE WORDS... THEN WE GO ON TO SENTENCES AND CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH C'MON...

CAT
DOG
BARN

CAT...
DOG...
BARN...

THE LESSONS CONTINUED HOUR AFTER HOUR, DAY AFTER DAY, AND SLOWLY FIDO APPROACHED THE PERFECTION NEEDED FOR THE TASK HERMAN HAD IN MIND...

...AND SO THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

OKAY, FIDO... CLOSE THE BOOK! AND LISTEN CLOSELY...

I HAVEN'T BOTHERED TEACHING YOU TO BE THE FIRST TALKING DOG IN HISTORY JUST TO AMUSE MY FRIENDS! YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO WORK, SEE? TOGETHER WE'RE GONNA CLEAN UP... NOBODY'LL EVER SUSPECT A POOCH OF "CASING" A HOME FOR ROBBERY!

I'M DROPPING YOU OFF AT THE HOME OF MY FRIENDS, TED AND MARION KENT! IT'S JUST FOR A FEW DAYS WHILE I'M OUT OF TOWN, UNDERSTAND? YOU'RE TO KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN... AND LEARN THE COMBINATION OF THE WALL SAFE WHERE ALL HER JEWELRY IS KEPT! GOT IT?

BUT... BUT THAT'S A CRIME! AND ALL THE BOOKS I'VE BEEN READING SAY THAT A CRIME IS EVIL! I-I WON'T DO IT!

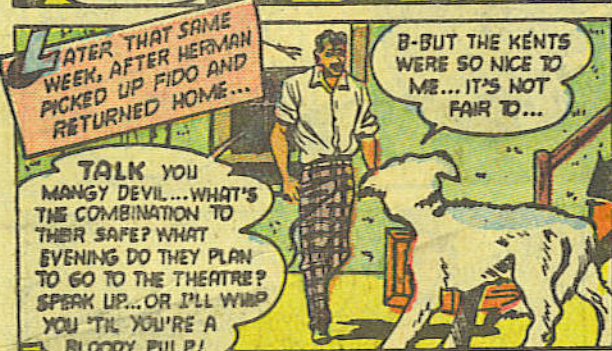
SHUT UP, YOU IMBECILE! I'LL TEACH YOU TO TALK BACK TO ME!

SPACE ADVENTURES



OOOOOH! I-I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU COMMAND...J-JUST DON'T HIT ME AGAIN!

THEY WON'T HESITATE TO OPEN THAT SAFE IN FRONT OF YOU, NEVER SUSPECTING YOUR STRANGE POWERS! AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DISCOVER THE COMBINATION... DO YOU STILL REFUSE TO OBEY?



LATER THAT SAME WEEK, AFTER HERMAN PICKED UP FIDO AND RETURNED HOME...

TALK YOU MANGY DEVIL...WHAT'S THE COMBINATION TO THEIR SAFE? WHAT EVENING DO THEY PLAN TO GO TO THE THEATRE? SPEAK UP...OR I'LL WHIP YOU 'TIL YOU'RE A BLOODY PULP!

B-BUT THE KENTS WERE SO NICE TO ME...IT'S NOT FAIR TO...



AND SO, THE NEXT DAY, AT THE HOME OF TED AND MARION KENT...

OF COURSE WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR PUP WHILE YOU'RE AWAY, HERMAN!

THAT NECKLACE SHE'S WEARING MUST BE WORTH \$10,000! IN TWO OR THREE DAYS IT'LL BE MINE... FIDO'S TOO FRIGHTENED NOT TO OBEY ME!



CAT'S GOT YOUR TONGUE, EH? MEBBE TWS WILL LOOSEN IT...

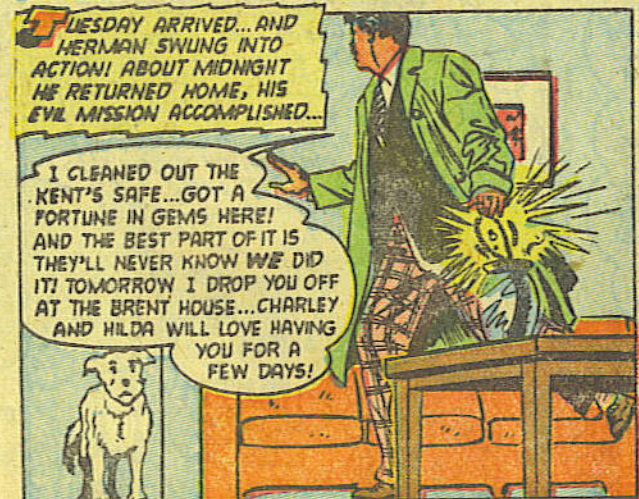
D-DON'T... ARGHHHH! P-PLEASE STOP...I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW...

SNAP! SNAP!



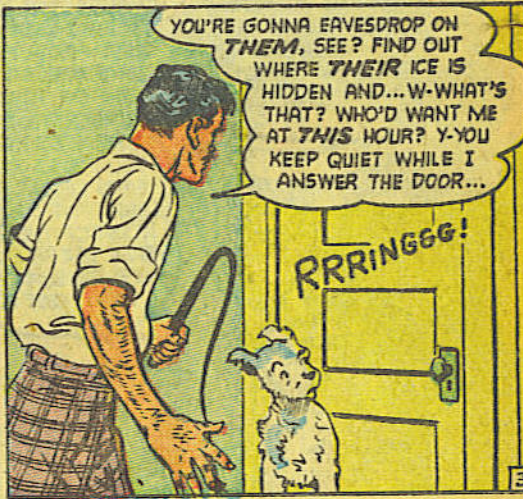
T-THREE TURNS TO THE LEFT, STOP AT 12... ONCE TO THE RIGHT, TO 17... BACK A HALF-TURN TO 26... THEN TWIST KNOB TO THE LEFT! THEY'LL BE OUT OF THEIR HOUSE ON TUESDAY NIGHT...G-GOING TO SEE A MUSICAL COMEDY!

GOOD DOG! YOU'LL GET AN EXTRA SLICE OF LIVER FOR THIS JOB!



TUESDAY ARRIVED...AND HERMAN SWUNG INTO ACTION! ABOUT MIDNIGHT HE RETURNED HOME, HIS EVIL MISSION ACCOMPLISHED...

I CLEANED OUT THE KENT'S SAFE...GOT A FORTUNE IN GEMS HERE! AND THE BEST PART OF IT IS THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WE DID IT! TOMORROW I DROP YOU OFF AT THE BRENT HOUSE...CHARLEY AND HILDA WILL LOVE HAVING YOU FOR A FEW DAYS!



YOU'RE GONNA EAVESDROP ON THEM, SEE? FIND OUT WHERE THEIR ICE IS HIDDEN AND...W-WHAT'S THAT? WHO'D WANT ME AT THIS HOUR? Y-YOU KEEP QUIET WHILE I ANSWER THE DOOR...

RRRINGGG!

SPACE ADVENTURES

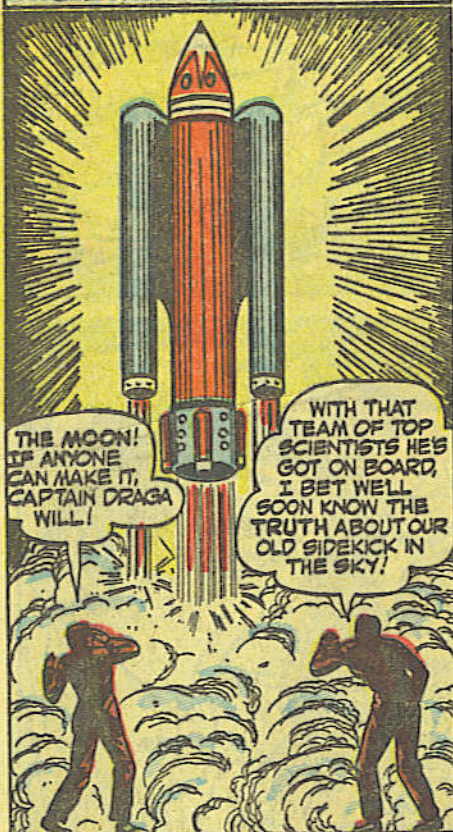


SPACE ADVENTURES

OFF INTO THE SKY SCREAMED THE SPACESHIP HEADING TOWARD THE MOON AND AN ASTONISHING.....

DISCOVERY!!

IN THE YEAR 1999, ENORMOUS STRIDES IN ROCKET CONSTRUCTION MADE POSSIBLE THE FIRST FLIGHT TO....



ON BOARD THE MOON INVADER, THE MILES RACE BY WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED...

THERE SHE IS, GENTLEMEN...THE MOTHER PLANET! SEEN FROM FURTHER OUT IN SPACE THAN MAN HAS EVER VENTURED. NEXT STOP...THE MOON!



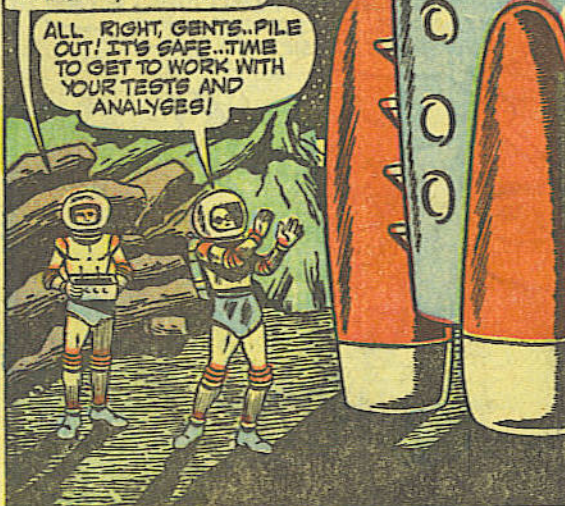
AND ON THE SPACE-SCREEN, MEN...OUR DESTINATION! IN ANOTHER HOUR WE'LL BE ABLE TO PROVE OR DISPROVE THE CENTURIES OF CONJECTURE ABOUT WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE. HIT THE SHOCK-COUCHES... WE'RE GOING IN!!



WITH A NERVE-WRACKING ROAR...BELCHING PURPLE FLAME AND ROLLING CLOUDS OF MURKY SMOKE...THE MOON INVADER MADE ITS HISTORIC LANDING....

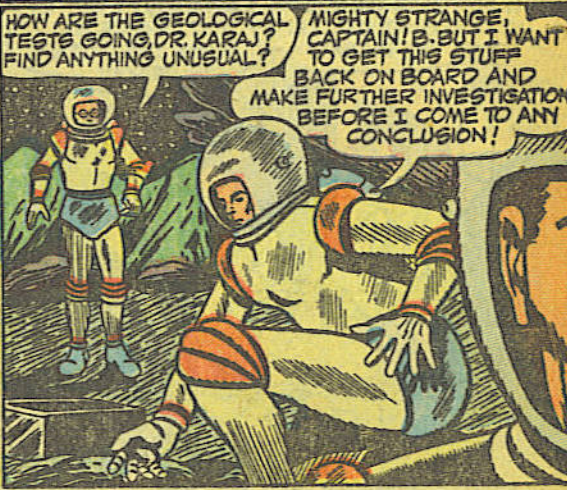


NO POISON IN THE ATMOSPHERE THAT OUR HELMETS CAN'T TAKE CARE OF, CAPTAIN!



IN A FEW MINUTES THE AREA AROUND THE MOON INVADER WAS CLOGGED WITH HARD WORKING SCIENTISTS, CLOSELY SUPERVISED BY CAPTAIN DRAGA....

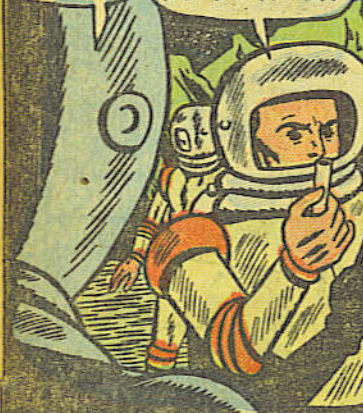
HOW ARE THE GEOLOGICAL TESTS GOING, DR. KARAJ? FIND ANYTHING UNUSUAL?



SPACE ADVENTURES

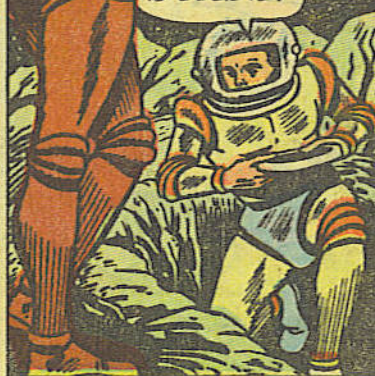
WELL, PROFESSOR QUENTO... ANY REVELATIONS FROM YOUR TEAM OF CHEMISTS?

I... I... I'LL BE BETTER ABLE TO SUBMIT MY REPORT AFTER I'VE RECHECKED THE INFORMATION MORE EXACTLY!



AND YOU, MR. PETTIGREW... WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY?

THIS MINERALOGICAL SURVEY IS THE CRAZIEST THING I'VE RUN ACROSS IN THIRTY YEARS OF MINING, CAPTAIN! I'LL HAVE TO GO OVER EVERYTHING AGAIN THOUGH... THIS IS TOO FANTASTIC TO BELIEVE!

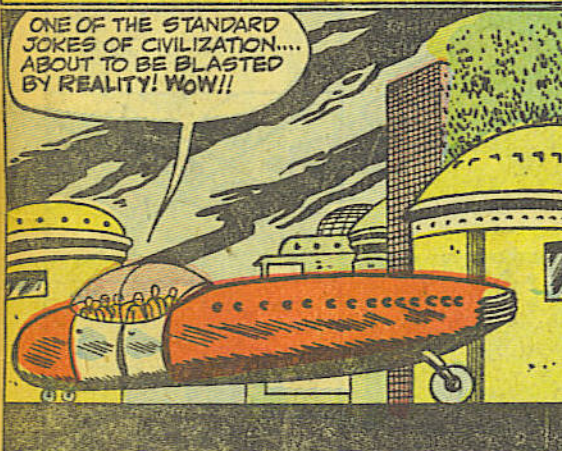


ABOARD THE MOON INVADER, AFTER ALL SAMPLES HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE MOST INTENSE SCRUTINY...

...YOUR CONCLUSIONS, GENTLEMEN... THEY MAKE MY HEAD SPIN! AND YET... MAD AS IT SEEMS... YOU ALL AGREE! WE'VE GOT TO ROCKET BACK TO EARTH IMMEDIATELY!!!



WITH A BURST OF ORANGE-RED FLAME, THE HUGE CRAFT BLASTS FREE OF THE MOON AND HURTLES ACROSS THE HEAVENS. TOUCHING DOWN, CAPT. DRAGA IS WHISKED HURRIEDLY TOWARD THE HALL OF SCIENCE...

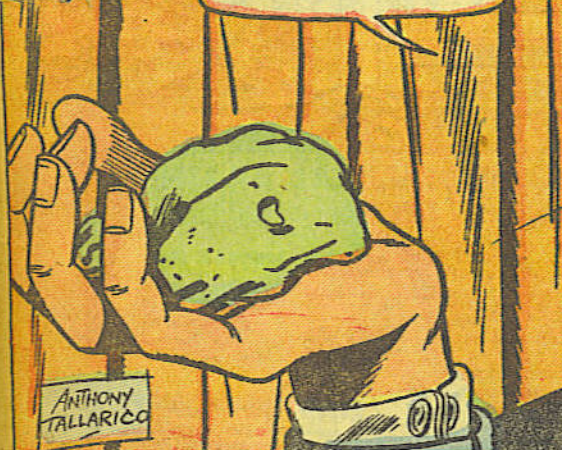


ONE OF THE STANDARD JOKES OF CIVILIZATION... ABOUT TO BE BLASTED BY REALITY! WOW!!

AND, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEADING SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES, OUR INTENSIVE SURVEY OF THE MOON... OF THE CONTENTS OF ITS DRY LAKES, CRATERS AND MOUNTAINS... LEADS US TO ONE INESCAPABLE FACT! UNBELIEVABLE AS IT MAY SOUND.....



....THE MOON IS ACTUALLY MADE OF... HOLD YOUR BREATH, GENTLEMEN... GREEN CHEESE!!



ANTHONY TALLARICO

THE END